

CASE STUDY: Syrian and Iraqi Refugees Empowerment Project (SIREP)



SIREP empowers new Australians through encouragement, mentoring and partnership

AT A GLANCE



Target Participants

Newly arrived Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Sydney



Aim

To help newly-arrived Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Sydney with their immediate resettlement and long-term integration. The project has three interconnected components: 1) Mentor Program; 2) Partnership Building; and 3) Annual Research



Organisations Involved

Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education



Location

Sydney, NSW



Funding

Edmund Rice Centre's Internal sources

Mentor Program

The SIREP mentor program aims to assist newly arrived refugees in Sydney to articulate their needs, concerns and expectations. Volunteer mentors from Edmund Rice Centre work with the person they are assisting to assess their overall situation, identify their concerns and expectations, evaluate their professional needs, and assist them with finding a way forward. In doing so, mentors work with mentees to set short-term and long-term goals for mentees, and to identify and access the resources and services needed to achieve these goals.

Partnership Building

The second component of the SIREP is building working relationships and establishing referral partnerships with relevant stakeholders and organisations working in the refugee support and empowerment space, including:

- Religious and community leaders from the Syrian and Iraqi refugee community who are aware of the settlement needs and integration requirements of their communities.
- Community organisations, service providers, schools and colleges that are directly or indirectly engaged with Syrian and Iraqi refugees.
- Employment service providers, education assistance organisations and business support initiatives that support newly-arrived Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

Settlement Experience Research

The third component of the SIREP is to prepare and publish an annual research report, reflecting on the settlement experience of newly-arrived Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Sydney. The research aims to inform relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations and the private sector about the opportunities, challenges and difficulties of settlement and integration of Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

'SIREP helped me learn about living and working in Australia by encouraging me to feel welcome and feel like I could make a life in this great country. With providing continuous support, mentoring and encouragement, SIREP gives me a kind of strength to know what I am doing now will help me to plan for my future and build successfully my professional life.'

Sandreen

26 years old
from Iraq

For More Information Visit

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